VZCZCXRO2593 PP RUEHBW DE RUEHRO #0604 1340601 ZNY CCCCC ZZH P 130601Z MAY 08 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0315 INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY 9381 RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY 3040 RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES PRIORITY 3191 RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 2935 RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY RUEHRN/USMISSION UN ROME PRIORITY 0168 RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 6383

CONFIDENTIAL ROME 000604

SIPDIS

PM/WRA FOR KATHERINE BAKER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 5/13/2018 TAGS: <u>IT MOPS PREL PARM NATO</u>

SUBJECT: CLUSTER MUNITIONS: ITALY STILL FIRMLY WITHIN

LIKE-MINDED CAMP

REF: STATE 48124

Classified By: Acting Political Minister-Counselor Jonathan Cohen for R easons 1.4 (B) and (D)

11. (C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche to Italian MFA Acting Director for Nonproliferation and Disarmament Affairs Laura Aghilarre on May 9. Aghillare stressed that the Italian position is still decidedly against any agreement that would compromise the "like-minded" approach and that the Italian Government has made clear to the Oslo Process organizers that it has no intention of signing on to anything that would hinder allied interoperability. That said, the Italians had found some of the compromise proposals to the Wellington language contained in the compendium (in particular the Japanese language) reasonable and worthy of discussion at the upcoming Dublin meeting. She said that both the MFA and MOD remain firmly engaged on the issue at the working level despite the current transition period in the Italian government.

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